# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1593
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2007
HERITAGE CITIES
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

**Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) the details of the steps taken by UNESCO in launching the `Network of Indian Cities of Living Heritage` to preserve the original character of the city;

(b) the number of heritage cities and sites and the measures taken including providing of funds to save them from attacks of modernization and development; (

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy to systematize the persistent efforts required to preserve the original character of our heritage cities by providing technical expertise and financial assistance and making people aware of their role in preserving the culture and heritage of their cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM & CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) As per the requirement of the UNESCO World Heritage Conventions, 1972, the World Heritage Committee has established a list of World Heritage Sites considering the outstanding universal value of the sites nominated by the states parties. No network is launched by UNESCO for preserving living heritage of Indian cities.

(b) Archaeological Survey of India protects and maintains 3667 centrally protected monuments/sites, including 19 World Heritage sites located in different parts of the country. Activities of conservation, preservation and environment development are undertaken as per the available resources. To contain the effect of development around the protected monuments/sites, a notification was issued by the Government in 1992, declaring 100 meters from the protected limits of the protected monuments / sites as prohibited area, where no construction / mining activity is allowed, and further 200 meter area beyond the prohibited limits has been declared as regulated area wherein height of construction is regulated and owners /agencies are required to obtain N.O.C. from the Archaeological Survey of India. Further, in order to prevent encroachment, fencing is provided around the protected area of the monument/site, wherever necessary. Expenditure incurred on conservation, preservation and environment development during the last three years and allotment for the current financial year is as follows:-

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2004-05  Rs.  92.88 crores
2005-06  Rs. 101.95 crores
2006-07  Rs. 108.17 crores
2007-08  Rs. 115.32 crores (allotment)
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(c ) & (d): Archaeological Survey of India has an established approach for conserving protected monuments/sites. Similarly, some of the State Governments viz. Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal have formulated policies for conservation of protected / listed heritage buildings in their states to maintain the original character of the ancient buildings. Further, the relevant agencies of both Central and State Governments and NGOs such as INTACH and private institutions hold workshops to create awareness amongst the people to sensitize them in the preservation of cultural heritage in their region.